Lacunae in the matters of appointment of Senior Manager in Punjab and Sind Bank

393. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Punjab and Sind Bank has appointed a Senior Manager-IRC at H. O. Personnel Department from Bank of India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he was a Junior Officer in MMG Scale-II in Bank of India and is not having required qualifications for this post;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there were senior officers in MMG Scale-II and III working in Punjab and Sind Bank with required qualification for this post and they were not given the chance for this post;

(d) whether there is any Government guidelines for the appointment in such Posts from other banks; if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) whether the H. O. Personnel Department has received any representation from any officer/officers' organisation against this appointment; and

(f) if so, what are the details of action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (f) Punjab & Sind Bank has reported that a Scale-II Officer of Bank of India having requisite qualifications and experience in the field has been taken by it an deputation for a period of 2 years. The incumbent being found suitable both in terms of qualifications and experience was considered for appointment as per Bank rules. There are no Government guidelines contrary to such appointments in banks on deputation. The Officers' Federation has, however, represented against the appointment. Since the Bank was in need of a suitable person to strengthen its Personnel Department and was satisfied with the suitability of the incumbent and this being an administrative matter within the purview of the Bank, no intervention from the Government appears to be waranted.

Alleged irregularities in the purchase of residential flat for Managing Director of MSTC

394. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd. purchased a residential flat for its Managing Director at 176, Sarat Bose Road, Calcutta within a few months after the present incumbent had taken over, in 1986 at an exorbitant rate without following the normal procedure of calling tender and prior assessment from any accredited valuer;

(b) if so, whether the super-built area of the flat is far beyond the admissible upper limit;

(c) whether before receipt of clearance regarding legal encum-brances about the ownership of the flat, the MSTC made advance payment in this regard;

(d) whether MSTC suppressed the fact that in the deal for a car parking space of over 400 sq. ft. was included in the payment;

(e) whether the explanatory statement to the CBI on purchase of car parking space country to the original sale deed was recorded in MSTC's file;

(f) whether the CBI made a probe into the matter but let the MSTC officers go scotfree; and

(g) if so, whether the case has been re-opened recently?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (f) MSTC purchased a flat at Sarat Bose Road, Calcutta in 1986. The prescribed procedure of issue of advertisements etc. was followed and out of the 17 offers received, the flat at 176, Sarat Bose Road was purchased since it was available on cheque payment basis. The flat was purchased within the specified limits of carpet areas as provided in the Bureau of Public Enterprises' guidelines.

According to the practice prevailing in the State, checking of legal encumberances about any immovable property was possible only after making an advance payment and hence this was done. The CBI had also made a secret investigation into this matter and concluded that there was no irregularity in the above purchase.

(g) In view of the above, does not arise.

Allocation of imported steel skull scrap from Qatar

395. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited had imported 28,000 tonnes of steel skull scrap from Qatar in hard currency without pre-shipment inspection by it or by the approved inspection agency;

(b) if so, whether the entire quantity was discriminatorily allotted to Mukand Iron and Steel without pre-registration of demand by the latter;

(c) whether the internal vigilance of MSTC indicated the deal;

(d) whether the Ministry have taken any action in the matter; and

(e) if so, what is the proposed course of action?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) During 1988-89, Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC) placed orders for the import of 68,000 tonnes of steel skull scrap from Qatar of which about 35,000 tonnes was actually shipped. Under the prevalent system pre-shipment inspection of scrap is not done by MSTC but by inspection agencies. In addition, the actual users are also free to do so. Out of the above, inspection of 21,000 tonnes was to be done by actual users and the balence by inspection agencies.

(b) Out of 35,000 tonnes of Skull Scrap actually imported, M/s. Mukand was allotted about 27,000 tonnes and the balance was allotted to eight other users. Pre-registration of any particular variety of Carbon Steel Melting Scrap is not a pre-requisite for allotment purposes but the consumers can pre-register their demand for entire requirement.

(c) to (e) The internal vigilance of MSTC had examined the matter but had not found any mala fide. However, Government are examining the matter afresh.

Alleged irregularities in the purchase of a foreign flag ship by MSTC

396. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited (MSTC) purchased a foreign flag vessel, MV Aspen Sky, over-looking specific objections by the then Chief Vigilance Officer, MSTC;

(b) if so, whether there are more than one vigilance reports containing adverse remarks against the present Managing Director of MSTC and some higher-ups, some of which are for a period when the Managing Director was General Manager of MSTC;

(c) whether the present Managing Director was involved in an irregular deal pertaining to the import of stainless steel, in 1984 when he was General Manager; and

(d) whether appointment of Managing Director, MSTC, during pendency of vigilance enquiry was counter to the Government policy and principles, more so when corruption charges were confirmed by internal vigilance of MSTC?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) MSTC purchased "MV Aspen Sky" ship for breaking after obtaining the then Chief Vigilance Officer's advice in the matter. The thrust of the advice was that MSTC's interests including direct and indirect losses and damages on such